



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

## County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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April 6, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors  
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MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Second District

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Third District

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Fifth District

### **MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KNABE TO SUPPORT THE CALIFORNIANS AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION ACT (ITEM NO. 6, AGENDA OF APRIL 10, 2012)**

Item No. 6 on the April 10, 2012 Board Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Knabe requesting the Board of Supervisors to go on record in support of the Californians Against Sexual Exploitation (CASE) Act which would strengthen penalties against human traffickers and protect sexually exploited children; and urge all voters in Los Angeles County and throughout the State to vote in favor of the CASE Act in the November 2012 statewide election.

According to a United States Department of Justice study, close to 300,000 American children are at risk of commercial sexual exploitation. California has three of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's 13 High Intensity Child Prostitution Areas including Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego. The average age that a victim is first trafficked for sex is 12 to 14 years old although some children are trafficked as young as four years old. The Internet has increased access to young victims and allowed for the predatory use of that technology by human traffickers and sex offenders.

Existing State law establishes criminal penalties, prison sentences and fines for individuals convicted of forced labor and human and sex trafficking of adults and minors. In California, current penalties for these crimes are significantly lower than penalties for the same crimes at the Federal level and many States have passed legislation to increase criminal penalties for human trafficking and sexual exploitation of minors.

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### **Ballot Initiative**

On October 24, 2011, California Against Slavery, a non-profit human rights organization, and The Safer California Foundation, which fights against criminal exploitation, submitted their proposed ballot initiative, The Californians Against Sexual Exploitation Act, to the Attorney General to qualify for the November 2012 statewide ballot.

According to the proponents, the CASE Act would strengthen California law against human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of minors and would create the toughest human trafficking laws in the country. Specifically, the CASE Act would:

- Increase the length of prison sentences for those convicted of human and sex trafficking of adults and minors;
- Require convicted sex traffickers to register as sex offenders upon release from prison;
- Require registered sex offenders to disclose all Internet accounts and Internet identifiers used by the individual;
- Require certain law enforcement officers to undergo training on handling human trafficking complaints and investigations; and
- Increase criminal fines from those convicted of human trafficking and require that those fines go towards paying for victim services.

The CASE Act is supported by the Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, Los Angeles Airport Peace Officers Association, Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association, Los Angeles Police Protective League, California Fraternal Order of Police, the KlassKids Foundation, Crime Stoppers Los Angeles, several statewide Soroptomist groups, and a number of statewide and local law enforcement, advocacy and faith-based organizations and individuals.

On March 29, 2012, the proponents of the CASE Act submitted 865,000 signatures to the Attorney General for certification to qualify the initiative for the November 2012 statewide Ballot.

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### **Legislative Analyst's Office Report**

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) estimates that the CASE Act could result in potential one-time costs to local government of up to a few million dollars on a statewide basis and lesser costs incurred each year for the new mandatory training requirements for law enforcement officers. In addition, the LAO estimates minor cost increases to State and local governments for incarcerating and supervising human trafficking offenders. Finally, the LAO states that there would be an unknown amount of additional revenue from new criminal fines which would likely not exceed the low millions of dollars annually directed to funding services for human trafficking victims.

### **Conclusion**

Approval of this motion for the Board to go on record in support of the Californians Against Sexual Exploitation Act and urge all voters in Los Angeles County and throughout the State to vote in favor of this initiative in the November 2012 statewide election is consistent with existing Board-approved policy to support proposals that address crimes against children including issues of internet privacy, cyber bullying, sexting, sextortion and the strengthening of default settings to protect privacy of information sharing on social networking websites and wireless devices.

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MR:KA:er

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel